THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The Government of Orissa reported drought situation in the State on account of inadequate rainfall in certain districts of the State.

(b) The Prime Minister has not visited the State on 31.7.1987.

River Valley Project in Assam

4133. SHRIMATI BIJOY CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to set-up a major river valley project in Assam to be implemented with foreign collaboration;

(b) whether Government have sought the assistance of Chinese experts in matters connected with the taming of the Brahmaputra and exploiting its water resources; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Compulsory crop insurance scheme against natural calamities

4134. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether replies from the State Governments have been received in response to the directives issued by the Central Government for introducing Crop Insurance Scheme compulsorily for the safeguard of farmers against natural calamities; and

(b) what further immediate necessary action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No directive to States has been issued by the Central Government for introducing the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme compulsorily to safeguard farmers against natural calamities, except, circular issued in March, 1987 to all States|Union Territories informing them of modifications made in the Scheme by the Government of India. One of these modifications provides that the implementing States will have the freedom to opt for the Scheme, and this option shall be with reference to the district as a unit. However, the option once exercised in respect of any district shall not be allowed to be changed or withdrawn for a period of 3 years.

(b) Does not arise.

Homestead to Landless in Madhya Pradesh

4135. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any instructions|guidelines had been issued some time back by the Central Government to various State Governments to provide homestead land|plot to the landless;

(b) if so, when such guidelines were issued to the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(c) the number of landless people in Madhya Pradesh who had been given homestead land so far; and

(d) the area of Madhya Pradesh which has benefited most from this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The guidelines were issued to all States|Union Territories on 6th October, 1971.

(c) and (d) Housing being a State subject, all social housing schemes are implemented by the States as per their requirement and plan priorities. Union Government only monitors the scheme including the scheme of the allotment of house sites to rural landless workers. Since the inception of the scheme, a total